10 DECEMBER 1981

Libyan Airliner Hijacking

The hijackers of a Libyan Boeing 727 surrendered at Beirut airport to Col Muhammad Ghanim, intelligence chief of the Syrian Arab Deterrent Force, and to Nabih Birri, secretary general of the Shi'ite Amal Movement, AFP reported.

After refueling in Tehran, the aircraft had returned for the third time to Beirut, where it landed despite the fact that Lebanese authorities had closed the airport, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. It added that, before landing, the hijackers told the airport control tower that their operation was finished and that they would not harm the passengers. They demanded that Lebanese and Syrian officials come to the airport to verify that the passengers and crew had not been ill treated.

Iran

Tehran radio broadcast a statement issued by the revolution prosecutor's office that warned against "counterrevolutionaries, hooligans and corrupt individuals" who have illegally entered premises to commit armed robbery "disguised" as revolution guards or as members of local revolution committees. Asserting that those dressed as security forces and bearing arms have no automatic right to enter people's houses, the statement called on people to inform the authorities of violations and said guards and revolution committee members should arrest the culprits. The radio likewise broadcast a letter from the state Inspectorate General to Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi and to the Revolution Guards Corps Command, urging the corps to refrain from taking "rash action" and from interfering in judicial and executive affairs beyond its jurisdiction.

Meanwhile, Tehran radio reported that Mojahedin-e Khalq guerrillas assassinated an education official in Hamadan.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

An Iranian Armed Forces communique broadcast by Tehran radio reported that Iranian fighters downed an Iraqi plane near Ahvaz. It also noted that Iraqi aircraft bombed Ilam, causing a number of deaths and injuries. INA carried an Iraqi military spokesman's statement on the recent fighting in the Susangerd region, asserting that Iraqi troops are still holding their positions in the 11-km corridor through which the Iranians had planned to advance, the statement said, while the Iranians were able to hold only Bostan and 2 km of the corridor. Charging that the Iranians used 15- and 16-year-old youths in their offensive, it said that in the fierce battles between 29 November and 5 December Iranian losses included 6,500 troops killed, 11 fighter planes and 262 tanks, while the Iraqis suffered 605 fatalities and lost 81 tanks and 2 fighter aircraft.

Iraq

INA reported that following a visit by a Supreme Soviet Presidium delegation, the Iraqi National Assembly and the Supreme Soviet issued a joint statement asserting their mutual desire to strengthen Iraqi-Soviet relations on the basis of the 1972 friendship and cooperation treaty. The statement said both sides expressed deep satisfaction with the results of their friendly talks.

OPEC, OAPEC Affairs

OPEC Meeting -- Speaking to reporters in Abu Dhabi at the beginning of an OPEC oil ministers conference, Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani said OPEC's base oil price will remain frozen at $34 a barrel until the end of 1982, regardless of changes in the value of the dollar, SPA reported. WAKH reports noted that during the first session of the conference, ministers elected a new ministerial council chairman, UAE Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, and approved the conference agenda. WAM reported that at the second session, the ministers began studying a report on oil price dirferentials.

OAPEC Dispute -- Tunis radio reported that Tunisia has asked Libya to clarify its attitude toward Tunisia's application to join OAPEC. The Libyan position has surprised Tunisian observers, the radio said; especially because relations between the two countries had been rapidly improving of late. Earlier, WAKH reported that Libyan Oil Minister 'Abd as-Salam az-Zaq'ar denied that Libya objects to Tunisian membership of OAPEC, asserting that Libya merely wants time to study the Tunisian application.

Lebanon

The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio reported that Israeli and Christian militia forces bombarded the southern village of Yatah. The radio also said an Israeli command unit infiltrated the village and blew up a house.

Egypt

Noting that the latest round of autonomy talks would start in Tel Aviv on 10 December, Cairo radio called on the United States to take more interest in the current negotiations and appoint the head of its delegation to them. The radio also urged Israel to stop its "repressive measures" in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Israel

In an interview broadcast by Jerusalem television, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon asserted that the government will not reconsider its new policy on the West Bank, although he admitted that recent unrest there is mainly the result of that policy. He said any new policy must be tested over a long period of time, adding that current efforts are concentrated on strengthening those who regard the "terrorist organizations" as the real threat. Sharon also denied that the government is dragging its feet over negotiations with settlers in the Sinai in order to impress the world with its difficulties in implementing the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. Terming such speculation groundless, Sharon said the government will honor the peace treaty.

Gulf Affairs

WAKH reported that Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky left for home after a 1-day official visit to Doha at the end of a tour of the Gulf region. It said talks during the visit focused on the Palestinian question.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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KARMAL ISSUES MESSAGE ON HUMAN RIGHTS DAYS

LD092150 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Message from Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, on the 33d anniversary of the International Declaration of Human Rights -- read by announcer]

[Text] At a time when the 33d anniversary of the International Declaration of Human Rights if being celebrated throughout the world, I have the pleasure to express once again the profound and all-round support of the people and the DRA Government for the principles contained in this international declaration to all progressive and humane forces. The annual celebration of this declaration is itself indicative of the value of this international declaration and gives grounds to maintain the position of countries and various forces of the world in the light of the International Declaration of Human Rights toward the implementation of the lofty aims of this declaration. [sentence as heard]

The International Declaration of Human Rights, which was ratified on 10 December 1947, was drafted and approved as a result of the consistent and all-round efforts of peace-loving and progressive forces of the world which fought against Hitlerite fascism. The ratification of this declaration obligated international society to support human rights and human dignity; it declares against the masses being deprived of these benefits.

Finally, it must be regretfully stated that, despite the fact that 33 years have elapsed since the ratification of the International Declaration of Human Rights, serious and blatant violations of the proper rights of the peoples and nations of the world are still occurring as a result of the activities of antipeace and imperialist forces. Some Western countries did not even approve this important international document. Reactionary states, pursuing the policy of apartheid, racism, colonialism, neo-Zionist colonialism and dictatorship allow unlimited cruelty and oppression against the innumerable masses of the noble people of Africa, Asia and Latin America. Capitalist states have put great masses of workers, partisans and peasants in the chains of interests of ruling circles and the major capitalist monopolies and subject them to exploitation.

It can be firmly stated that the glorious Sawr Revolution, particularly its new development stage, which is the guarantor of positive change toward social, economic and political progress in our beloved country, the DRA, has put an end to oppression, injustice and violation of human rights in the country. At this stage the homeland has liberated from the bloodthirsty and deviant elements of the fascist Amin band. The government, with sincerity and revolutionary truth to its people, has observed the lofty human values and has made them the guidelines of its work. The Basic Principles of the DRA, with complete clarity, declare complete support for the principles of the International Declaration of Human Rights and obligate the government to act seriously in the implementation of these principles. Our dear country, Afghanistan, since the formation of the United Nations, as a sincere and loyal member has abided by the principles of the UN Charter and, since the glorious Sawr Revolution, particularly its new development stage, when power was transferred from the oppressor and exploiter classes to the country's millions-strong masses and to the epoch-making party of the working class and all toilers, the PDPA, on behalf of our nation, has respected and upheld rights and human dignity more than ever. The revolutions which were approved at the joint session of the DRA Revolutionary Council and the Presidium on (?25) November 19?0 prove that the government observes the principles of the International Declaration of Human Rights.

While expressing our solidarity with the oppressed people of Palestine, Namibia, El Salvador and many other peoples who are deprived of their human rights under oppressive and brutal governments, we once again declare our loyalty to the International Declaration of Human Rights and reiterate our readiness to further implement of the principles of this international declaration in our heroic country, revolutionary Afghanistan.

'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES' KILLED; WEAPONS SEIZED

LD081050 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Text] The final cells of mercenaries which infiltrated from abroad in Tora-Bura, 'Ali Khel and Chaparhar subdistrict and [name indistinct] village in Nangarhar Province have been crushed as a result of heroic attacks in the last 3 days by the armed forces and militant party members of Nangarhar Province. In these operations 480 counterrevolutionaries were crushed and another 5 were captured with their weapons.

Seventeen U.S.-made antiaircraft guns; 1 [name indistinct] machinegun; 68 antitank missiles; 2 medium-range mortars; 30 heavy machineguns; 37 assorted American, Chinese and Egyptian weapons; 437 U.S.-made antitank and antipersonnel mines; 3,300 rounds of ammunition; 60 rounds of (Patlaga) (?ammunition); 2 caches of assorted weapons, explosive substances, military equipment and antitank and antipersonnel mines; foodstuff; 300 tents; 6 stretchers; 2 field telephones; and a great number of documents and propaganda leaflets were seized.

BAKHTAR reports that the people of these localities welcomed the crushing of the counterrevolutionaries with great pleasure.

The BAKHTAR correspondent in Badghis Province reports that on 2 December the security forces operational battallions and the sarandoy of Badghis Province crushed a terrorist group led by 'Aref Amazi.

According to another report from Ghowr Province, a number of counterrevolutionary mercenaries who were engaged in looting and robbing the people in Sandawol village were crushed by the security forces and the revolution defenders. Two of them by the names of Gholam Hasan, son of Mohammad Qesem, and 'Abdol 'Aziz, son of Sher Mohammad, inhabitants of Maydan (Parsan), were captured. A spokesman for the security command of Ghowr Province reports that a heavy machinegun, (?Taket) ammunition and ammunition for associated weapons were captured from them.

KARACHI PAPER REPORTS ON MUJAHIDIN ACTIVITIES

GF071256 Karachi JANG in Urdu 30 Nov 81 p 1

[Excerpts] New Delhi, 29 Nov (AAP) -- Reports from Kabul indicate that mujahidin in Kabul have killed an officer of the Afghan Defense Ministry and his wife and several members of the ruling party. Brig Gen Mohammad Azam of the Afghan Defense Ministry and his wife were killed in his residence at the Qargha military barracks during the night of 25 November. Although the area was guarded by armed troops, the mujahidin escaped after the killing.

According to an AGENCE AFGHAN PRESSE report, the mujahidin have surrounded a Soviet force at Paghman, 15 km from Kabul. Soviet aid is being flown into the besieged garrison by helicopters, while the mujahidin have placed antiaircraft guns in the surrounding hills. This has reduced Soviet air raids in the area somewhat.

Two commanders of the Ettehad-e Eslami have disclosed that certain Afghan Army officers stationed at Qargha, Darreh-ye Shekari, Lowgar and Rishkhur have offered to provide the mujahidin with three SAM's. Another commander has revealed that a list of government officials spying against the mujahidin is being prepared in Kabul and Paghman. Information regarding these officers is being collected through civilians supporting the mujahidin. A campaign against such officers is already underway. Two such officers were captured on the road between Kotah-ye Sangi and Paghman on 11 November. They were brought before the Islamic court at Paghman and were later shot.

GANDHI MEETS WITH USSR'S KUZNETSOV 9 DEC

BK091623 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi has said the arms race in the region is compelling India to look to its defense requirement. This poses an additional burden on our resources.

Mrs Gandhi was having talks with First Vice President of the Soviet Union Kuznetsov in New Delhi today. He is in India as a head of the 20-member parliamentary delegation. The meeting lasted half an hour.

Mrs Gandhi recalled that the Soviet Union always stood by India in times of need and helped this country in its development to achieve self-reliance. Both share a common concern for peace.

She said for us peace is not only an ideal but a practical necessity, because India is facing challenges of its own development. That is why we are doing everything possible to preserve peace, she added.

Kuznetsov underlined the importance of Indo-Soviet friendship as a factor for world peace. He appreciated India's efforts to reduce tension in the world and promote detente.

He said the friendship between the two countries has stood the test of time and noted that their views on international issues are identical or very close.

He also conveyed President Brezhnev's greetings to Mrs Gandhi.

NAVY STRENGTHENING, DEVELOPING ISLAND BASES

BK090434 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Pereira says measures are being taken to strengthen and develop bases at the Andaman, Nicobar and Laccadive group of islands because of their strategic location. Addressing a news conference in Port Blair, he said three of these bases will be able to receive sophisticated frigates within 3 years.

COMMENTATOR PREVIEWS INDIA-CHINA TALKS

BK091205 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 9 Dec 81

[PTI correspondent Sunil C. Roy commentary on India-China talks]

[Text] Indian officials will be meeting their counterparts in Beijing for the next 4 days from tomorrow to discuss wideranging issues, including the sensitive border question. The talks, being held after a gap of over 21 years, mark a watershed in Sino-Indian relations which have started picking up in the past few years. Relations between the two countries remained strained till India and China decided to restore their diplomatic missions to ambassadorial level 5 years ago. The decision to hold talks in Beijing was announced during the visit of the Chinese foreign minister, Huang Hua, to New Delhi toward the end of June.

At the talks the Indian delegation will be headed by Eric Gonslaves, secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, and the Chinese side will be led by Deputy Foreign Minister Han Nianlong.

While the border question will be reopened for the first time since the Chinese attack on the Indian frontier in 1962, other bilateral issues related to trade and cultural exchanges will receive equal attention during the talks. Over the past 18 months there have been several high-level contacts between the leaders of both countries, the last among them being at the Cancun summit with Mrs Indira Gandhi and Chinese Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang.

These exchanges seem to have impressed both sides about their respective confidence on the importance of reshaping the Sino-Indian relationship. As a consequence, it is reasonably expected that the Beijing talks will help to lay the ground for some concrete thinking, eventually leading to better understanding of each other's position.

During an interview with an Indian opposition leader in April this year in the Chinese capital, China's strongman Deng Xiaoping advocated a package deal to settle the border question. China has not spelt out the details of this proposed deal so far. Whatever may be the Chinese line of thinking about this package deal, the Inidan position is that any agreement with China in exchange for occupied areas is not acceptable.

From all available indications the Indian delegation will adopt a positive attitude at the talks on all issues. India is conscious that a good atmosphere has to be created for relations between the two countries to progress, although in recent months the Chinese posture on the border issue has hardened. Communist Party newspaper PEOPLE'S DAILY criticised External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao for saying in September that China had occupied 37,500 km of Indian territory. Rao made the statement in Parliament.

The rigidity of the Chinese attitude toward the border question is also reflected in the assertion by the PEOPLE'S DAILY that China has not occupied even an inch of Indian territory. It was still more evident when China refused to recognize the status of the Arunachal Pradesh speaker as member of the Indian delegation to the UN-sponsored Asian parliamentarians conference on population and development. The conference was held in Beijing toward the end of October. In the Chinese view Arunachal Pradesh is a disputed area.

Notwithstanding the difference in appraoch to the border issue and perception on international and regional developments, India feels that the Chinese foreign minister's visit to India marked a transition from the earlier Chinese position to solving outstanding issues between the two countries.

China has of late come round to the Indian view that the solution of the boundary question is not a precondition to developing relations between India and China has some limitations until the boundary question is settled. Therefore, efforts have to be made to settle it.

In the sphere of trade there is considerable scope to increase the turnover. The first trade agreement of 1954 was renewed from time to time and expired in December 1959. Trade was resumed in 1977. The volume of Sino-Indian trade increased significantly last year, although it was just over $100 million. The main products which have figured in trade so far include pig iron, iron ore, shellac, steel wire ropes, steel tubes, tobacco and cotton. A number of additional products idenitified to diversify the trade are sugar, rubber, rolling stock, mining equipment, power-generating equipment and agricultural machinery.

There is considerable interest in China in India's cultural achievement, especially Indian films. The Beijing talks may lead to the conclusion of a cultural exchange agreement, which is nonexistent now.

It is certainly not expected that the first round of official talks will see the end to all outstanding issues, which the Chinese prefer to call a leftover of history. The very fact that officials of both countries will make a formal beginning is expected to generate confidence and greater appreciation of each other's position on many issues not necessarily connected with the Sino-Indian border question.

KHAMENE'I STRESSES NEED FOR NATIONAL UNITY

LD101024 Tehran PARS in English 1910 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Text] Tehran, 9 Dec (PARS) -- In today's meeting with Imam Khomeyni in Tehran, President Khamene'i stressed the unity among the nation and pointed out that the enemies of the Islamic Republic after failing in political and (?economic) conspiracies, tried to fulfill their ominous objectives by sowing discord among the people.

Emphasising that Friday prayers through the country were the key to unity and cohesion of the Muslim masses, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i said that the enemies also tried hard to foil the effects of this obligatory deed. President Khamene'i said it would be ideal when the society resisted against Satan's powers by all means particularly by the weapon of faith, when it did not fear big powers of the world, when the people did not say Iran was alone, isolated and no one would help it.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i advised the country's Friday prayers leaders to further pay attention to the depth and significance of the Friday prayers.

KHAMENE'I ADDRESSES PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS

LD082050 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that the revolution prosecutor general and the shari'a judge, accompanied by a group of responsible officials from the revolution institutions in Sistan va Baluchestan Province, met and conferred this morning with President of the Republic Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. During this meeting a report was given to the president on the work of revolution institutions and government departments in that province and also on regional problems.

In a speech during the meeting, the president expressed his hopes for success for all the servants of Islam and the Islamic revolution in Iran, saying:

You should appreciate your own worth since you have undertaken the most difficult tasks which could be carried out in this country. If you act properly, all difficulties will undoubtedly be resolved. The people view the revolution by your actions, and every action you take will be assessed by the people. You should act with the utmost care, diligence, alertness and self-possession, and you should know that your every action, positive or otherwise, will have wide repercussions in the region and throughout the country and, quite possibly, some of these actions and decisions might even produce effects beyond provincial and state boundaries. It thus follows that when such momentous tasks face us, adherence to Islamic principles and standards is not only essential but is mandatory.

While some of you are in such revolutionary institutions as the Guards Corps, the crusade, the prosecutor's office, and others are in government departments, nevertheless, in the eyes of the people youare all made of the same stuff. They recognize all of you as revolutionary and government elements, and they attribute the outcome of your actions, steps and decisions to the overall account of the Islamic Republic system. Do try and preserve unity among the organs, avoid differences in matters of taste, and overlook no bad de s or disputes whatsoever.

Continuing his speech, the president said: Standing on ceremoney and observing social graces vis-a-vis blunders not only does not help resolve problems but rather extends the periphery of such problems. A lack of indulgence as regards blunders and wrongdoing would attract the people's confidence, and thus while preserving friendship and mutual respect, do attempt to eliminate mistakes and shortcomings.

The president of the republic then said: The problems of the country's deprived regions, of which Sistan va Baluchestan Province is one, are being closely watched by the country's government and responsible officials. In this respect the government is pursuing a clear and well defined policy, and God willing, this policy will daily become increasingly clear. You also should strive to create and strengthen regional confidence in government policy in this respect in order to create greater harmony in every possible sphere. While supporting the government with your advice and views, do try to strengthen this monolithic unity by making decisions in accordance with this. Continuing this policy will make the people more hopeful of the future and will make them more determined and decisive in the matter of giving assistance to their elected government which enjoys their confidence. And always remember that the people of Sistan va Baluchestan see the government in your faces, and through observing your actions, decisions and steps, they assess the government's work, policy and program.

Concluding his speech and referring to the plots hatched by the foes of Islam who aim to sow discord among the Muslim brothers, President of the Republic Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i stressed the need to preserve Islamic unity and brotherhood between the Shi'ite and Sunnite brethern in all places, including Sistan va Baluchestan Province and called on responsible officials to use vigilance, self-possession, affection and fraternal feelings in order to frustrate the schemes of the enemies, to consolidate their harmony and unity and to make their fraternal bond increasingly unshakable.

This meeting, which lasted for more than 90 minutes, ended at approximately midday today.

GUARDS URGED TO ACT WITHIN JURISDICTION

LD091320 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Following the command by the imam of the nation to the Supreme Judicial Council and to the chief revolution prosecutor's office, the state Inspectorate General has announced in letters to Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi and to the Revolution Guards Corps Commard Council, in connection with the scope of the responsibilities of that organization, that the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps is the strong arm of the revolution, is assigned the task of crushing domestic and foreign counterrevolution and implmeneting the orders of the proper judicial authorities.

The Government of the Islamic Republic, which is the manifestation of the sovereignty of the oppressed, is dutybound, in accordance with Principles 44 and 49 of the Constitution, to act in accordance with legal and religious standards to oust corrupt individuals and hoarders and those who possess ill-gotten wealth and to seize and confiscate such wealth. It is for the proper judicial authorities to judge this, and in order to preserve the dignity and honor of the Corps and prevent opportunists from taking advantage of the situation, this popular institute should seriously refrain from taking rash action and interfering in judicial and executive affairs that are beyond its jurisdiction.

PROSECUTOR STATEMENT WARNS AGAINST ILLEGAL ENTRY

LD091310 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the chief revolution prosecutor's office issued a statement today in connection with the entry of armed individuals dressed in sacred garb of the revolution guards. The text of the statement is as follows:

In His exalted name. It has recently been noticed that counterrevolutionaries, hooligans and corrupt individuals, dressed in the sacred garb of the guards and bearing arms, are entering people's homes disguised as members of the revolution committees or the Guards Corps, and attempting armed robbery. The honorable and revolutionary nation of Iran is hereby informed:

First, merely dressing as security forces and having weapons does not authorize individuals to enter people's houses,

Second, people who encounter such incidents should inform the Corps, the committee or any other security force center as soon as possible.

Also, the guards and committee brothers are dutybound to arrest such individuals and turn them in to the revolution prosecutor's office.

MUSAVI NAMED HEAD OF FOUNDATION FOR THE OPPRESSED

LD041852 Tehhran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Dec 81

[Text of decree issued by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni appointing Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi as the new head of the Foundation for the Oppressed -- read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Your Excellency Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, I am appointing Your Excellency as the new head of the Foundation for the Oppressed. I hope that you will run the foundation with religious, committed and skillful individuals and in the interest of the oppressed people. May God grant you success in serving Islam and Muslims, particularly the oppressed people.

[Signed] Ruhollah al-Musavi al-Khomeyni, 4 December 1981

GAS PIPELINE CONTRACT SIGNED WITH ITALIAN FIRM

LD091234 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Excerpts] A contract for construction of the 588 km Kangan-Esfahan gas pipeline, from the Kangan gas reserves -- which are sufficient to meet the entire country's gas requirements for 800 years -- has been signed.

The deputy minister of petroleum for gas affairs, while announcing this in an interview with PARS, explained the issues related to the country's gas supply and the calculation of the price of gas for the consumers.

Concerning the Kangan gas reserves in the south of Iran, he said: Extraction and transport of Changan gas is one of the projects that should be implemented as quickly as possible. Therefore, the contract for construction of the Kangan-Esfahan gas pipeline -- which will be connected to the first line of the gas network at Pachabeh and Esfahan -- was signed yesterday with the Italian state-owned (Saytan) Company. According to this project a piepline, 588 km in length and 56 inches in diameter will be laid between Kangan and Esfahan. The interesting point is that the world's biggest pipeline in diameter was previously laid in Iran, and the Kanghan-Esfahan project will be the same diameter.

With the signing of this contract, we hope that work on the project will start as soon as possible. He sdded: Because of the increase in its capacity, the Kangan gas reserves will be capable of supplying the gas requirement of the entire country for 800 years.

Pipeline Described

LD092036 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Interview with unnamed deputy petroleum minister in charge of gas affairs; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Excerpt] [Question] Yesterday, you signed an agreement with an Italian company to pipe gas from Kangan, on the Persian Gulf coast, to the center of the country. Would you please tell us what the point of this agreement is?

[Answer] Before the revolution an agreement was signed to sell gas from Kangan, which has a reserve of gas for 800 years of consumption for our own country, to the Soviet Union and also to Europe. After the revolution this agreement was put in a state of abeyance. The agreement remained in abeyance for 3 years. We decided to start the work and continue the pipeline to Esfahan, under the agreement signed with (Sayten). This gas will be piped to houses and industries in Shiraz, Yasuj and Esfahan. We can change oil consuming appliances to gas, thereby saving more oil and becoming less dependent on oil. Hitherto we had to extract gas from oil, but now we can produce gas directly from gas resources. God willing, after this plan, we shall not face any gas shortages in future.

[Question] When will this agreement be completed? Also, during the implementation of the project what other projects should be undertaken?

[Answer] As I said, this is a 56-inch pipe, the largest in Iran to date. As far as I know, pipes with similar diameters exist only in the Soviet Union. After 10 months, God willing, we will be able to feed gas to Esfahan and its industry, Yasuj and the Shiraz petrochemical complex. After 28 months, which is the duration of the agreement, God willing, we will be able to feed our oil storage tanks, because we can link this gas pipeline to the second pipeline which comes from Pachabeh and Esfahan. The first pipeline used to deliver gas from Khuzestan to the Bid Boland refinery; after refining, this gas used to be sent to the USSR through a pumping station. The second line reaches [word indistinct] from the Kangan field. The plan was to link the Kangan pipeline to the Soviet Union, but we have only signed the agreement for constructing pipelines from Kangan to Esfahan.

[Question] There is a natural gas field in Sarakhs. What is happening to this field now? Is it being used?

[Answer] We have constructed pipelines to bring natural gas to Neka. We have a gas refinery in Sarakhs. The gas there is salty [as heard]. Our refinery will be ready sometime after 22 May 1982. We shall of course try to finish it sooner than planned. The same Italian company is working for us there, too. Of course, before completion of this plan, we will connect gas to [word indistinct], and when the power station of Neka is completed, the gas will be ready.

JAPANESE PETROCHEMICAL OFFICIALS ARRIVE FOR TALKS

LD071146 Tehran PARS in English 0958 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Text] Tehran, 7 Dec (PARS NEWS AGENCY) -- A Japanese mission arrived in Tehran Sunday to conduct negotiations on the Iran-Japan petrochemical project, the Oil Ministry announced today. This mission will discuss and review the contract conditions for performing this project in meetings with Mr Mostafa Taheri Najaf-Abadi, the Oil Ministry undersecretary in petrochemical affairs, as well as with other authorities. High-ranking officials of Iran Petrochemical Company and representatives of the Japanese ICDC firm [expansion unknown] will take part in the negotiations.

Council Approves Project Plan

LD091120 Tehran PARS in English 1024 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Tehran, 9 Dec (PARS) -- A plan for completion of the Iran-Japan joint venture petrochemical complex was approved last night. The Economic Council, presided over by Prime Minister Musavi, held a session on Tuesday night to set the goals, limits and scheduling for, first, the cooperative sector; second, for the economic development of the country; and third, for the national system of planning.

The Economic Council, having presented the necessary guidelines for improvement on these three areas, determined that the planning group in charge of each area should submit its report to the Economic Council according to schedule.

In this session the Council reviewed the financial sources of the country and social-economic policies and then talked about the Iran-Japan petrochemical complex under construction at Bandar-e Imam Khomeyni. Following the discussion, the plan for completion of the plant was approved by the council. The execution of this plan now depends on acceptance by the Japanese partner.

AMBASSADOR TO KUWAIT VIEWS OIL, GAS PRODUCTION

LD061134 Kuwait KUNA in English 1007 GMT 6 Dec 81

[Text] Paris, 6 Dec (KUNA) -- The Iranian ambassador to Kuwait, 'Ali Shams Ardakani, said that the costs of the 15-month-old war between Iran and Iraq were "tremendous."

Damage to the Abadan oil refinery alone came to around $18 billion, Ardakani told the correspondent of the Beirut weekly AN NAHAR Arab report and memo.

In a long interview due for publication on Monday Ardakani also said that Iran was unlikely to resume exports of natural gas in the near future and revealed that in recent times the importance of the head of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) had diminished.

Ardakani said that his country's oil exports were currently running at 900,000 barrels a day [b/d], but it was hoped to push this to between 1.1 million and 1.2 million b/d "in the near future, depending on the market." Internal consumption was about 400,000 b/d, he said, and expected to increase to 450,000 b/d during the winter.

Ardakani denied that Iran faced special problems. "All exporters have the same problems created by the glut," he said, "but I think that the market has improved recently. We are not desperately seeking buyers."

Asked why Iran adopted "a surprisingly moderate attitude on pricing" at the recent OPEC conference, when a benchmark price of $34 per barrel was adopted, Ardakani said: "We are not going to sacrifice OPEC to prove a point. It does not matter how important this is, OPEC should not be sacrificed."

The National Oil Company was gradually being absorbed into the Oil Ministry, he said, and its international office had been taken over by the ministry's undersecretary for international affairs.

"Oil policy is being implemented within the structure of the Oil Ministry," he said, adding that the appointment of the new undersecretary for international affairs, Dr Abbas Honardust, was "definitely a political appointment."

The ambassador explained that the post of director of NIOC, frequently occupied by former prime ministers in the time of the shah, was "not that important anymore."

Turning to natural gas, Ardakani said that "there is no gas available for export. Whatever there is, we need internally -- Tehran, with its population of 5 million, needs the gas badly."

This was one reason why "I do not think we will have any gas exports in the near future."

The other reason was price. If the Soviet Union was ready to pay what he called "the international price," he said, exports might be resumed to that country.

Ardakani was asked to evaluate the cost of the war with Iraq, and replied that, since the average cost of a barrel of oil capacity in a refinery was about $3,000, the loss of the 600,000 b/d Abadan refinery could be calculated at (?$1.8) billion.

He went on to criticise the Arab countries which, in his words, "have not even sent a pair of socks" for the hundreds of thousands of refugees from Khorramshahr.

"A good 70 percent" of the population of 250,000 in that city were Arabs, he said. He added that Iran had not sought help from sympathetic Arab countries, such as Libya and Syria, but neither had those countries "come forward."

OFFICIAL DENIES EXECUTION OF IRAQI WAR PRISONERS

LD101201 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Interview with 'Alavi-Tabataba'i, spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran; date not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr 'Alavi, recently Iraq has claimed that 1,500 Iraqi prisoners of war who had been captured by the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the victory in Bostan have been executed by Iran. As the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, please tell us your views on this claim.

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. First of all, I strongly deny this claim. So far, Saddam has claimed that no advances have been made by the Iranians and that, on the contrary, Iraq has achieved considerable advances. It is interesting that Saddam and the Iraqi Government now admit that at least 1,500 of their forces were captured during the glorious victories in Bostan. This demonstrates the weakness and the desperate situation of Saddam and the Ba'thist forces.

The other point is that Saddam, whose hands are soiled with the blood of thousands of Muslims both in Iran and in Iraq and who repeatedly attacks our residential areas with his bombers, and who has martyred children, women and civilians, and who, only yesterday, martyred about 21 people in Ilam, and who engaged in a thousand shameful crimes in Bostan in order to cover up his defeat and the defeat of his aggressive forces, has now engaged in spreading such rumors. By doing this, Iraq is trying to explain and to minimize the number of deaths its has suffered. This is why it announced that the soldiers who had been captured had been killed. The Iraqi prisoners of war enjoy a most satisfactory situation in Iran. This is something which the International Red Cross has confirmed in its inspections of the prisoners of war camps in Iran.

Of course, Saddam announced that Iraq reserves the right to reply to this [the execution of POW's]. This shows that the aggressive Iraqi regime has reached a stage of insanity and wishes to lay the groundwork for another heinous crime which is probably the execution of Iranian prisoners of war. We ask the International Red Cross and other international organizations to take immediate steps to safeguard Iranian prisoners of war in Iraq in accordance with international norms and regulations.

[Question] What do you think about the extensive propaganda of news agencies about this issue?

[Answer] The reason why the news agencies engage in such propaganda is very clear. It is due to their animosity towards the Islamic revolution of Iran. As a result they try to exaggerate this issue and to minimize the glorious victories of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Bostan.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 723

LD091740 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Communique 723 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. According to the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at 1625 yesterday an intruding aircraft of the aggressive Iraqi Army was downed by our fighter planes in southern Ahvaz.

Fighting has continued on most of the country's southern and western fronts over the past 24 hours with exchanges of artillery and heavy-weapons fire. The powerful combatants of Islam on all the battlefronts are enjoying high morale and have taken the initiative in the war to repel the Saddamist aggressors.

On the western Dezful fronts, the combatants of the ground forces destroyed a tank, a personnel carrier, an ammunition dump and a heavy machinegun of the Iraqi forces and killed or wounded 10 of them.

On the Abadan fronts, artillery and mortar barrages on enemy positions destroyed more than 20 trenches and foxholes and killed or wounded 18 enemy soldiers.

On the Khuninshahr front, the heroes of the navy returned the enemy's fire, inflicting losses and casualties on the Saddamist forces and destroying a number of their trenches and observation posts.

In the course of a battle fought on 7 December, six fellow fighters of the ground forces and two comrades of the gendarmerie achieved the lofty honor of martyrdom.

At noon today the intruding aircraft of the aggressive Iraqi Army bombed part of the city of Ilam. As a result of this inhuman act, a number of our beloved compatriots were martyred or wounded.

'HYPOCRITES' KILL EDUCATION OFFICIAL IN HAMADAN

LD091906 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1830 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] According to a report by the Central News Unit, the public relations office of the Islamic Consultative Assembly has announced:

A message of congratulations and condolences has been sent by Islamic Consultative Assembly deputies from the Province of Hamadan to the imam, the Islamic community and the family of Akbar Maqsudi on the foul murder by the godless hypocrites organization of the latter combative brother, who was the educational under secretary of the Hamadan education and training office and one of the genuine believers in the Islamic revolution.

BRIEFS

ENVOYS MEET WITH NURBAKHSH -- According to PARS, today the FRG ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran met with Central Bank Governor Mr Mohsen Nurbakhsh. During this meeting, which took place at the Central Bank, they held talks on the expansion of economic relations between the two countries. The Japanese ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran, also met and conferred with Mr Nurbakhsh today. During this meeting they reviewed and discussed economic relations between the two countries. [Text] [Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Dec 81 LD]

NEPAL

INDIA'S REDDY ARRIVES IN KATMANDU ON STATE VISIT

BK071309 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Text] A rousing welcome was accorded to President Sanjiva Reddy when he arrived in Katmandu today on a 4-day state visit to Nepal. King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya received the president and his wife at the Tribhuvan Airport. Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa, his Cabinet colleagues, senior officials and diplomats were also present at the airport.

All-India radio special correspondent Ananta Charlu, covering the visit, reports that thousands of people lined up along the 6-km route from the airport to the Royal Palace and cheered the visiting dignitaries. A holiday was declared in Katmandu today in honor of the president's visit.

The king and the queen are hosting a banquet in honor of the president and his wife.

Banquet Speeches

BK081538 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0857 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Excerpt] On December 7 night, while speaking at a banquet given in his honor by King Birendra in Katmandu, President Sanjiva Reddy described Indo-Nepal relations as unique and multifaceted.

He said that India attaches high priority to her relations with Nepal. Underlining the need for closer cooperation between the two countries, he noted with satisfaction that in recent months there has been a realization on both sides of the need to cooperate purposefully in harnessing all available water resources to mutual benefit. There has been a promising beginning for implementation of important projects like Karnali and Pancheshwar.

Welcoming the president, King Birendra said that abundant good will and esteem characterize relations between the two countries. He said that the time has come to make existing bonds of cooperation more meaningful.

Referring to the help extended by many countries to Nepal for its development, King Birendra singled out India as being certainly a pioneer.

Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa earlier called on the president and spent nearly 40 minutes with him. It is understood that Thapa explained to President Reddy his country's efforts to strengthen bilateral relations.

CORRECTION TO PRO-BEIJING STUDENTS DEMONSTRATION

The following correction should be made to the item entitled "Pro-Beijing Students Demonstrate in Katmandu," published on pages P 1 - 2 of the 4 December issue of the South Asia DAILY REPORT:

On page P 2, the second line of the first paragraph should read: "group of students however had won the election and the leftist students disagreed with".

SRI LANKA

SLFP-M LEADER STATES READINESS FOR PARTY UNITY

BK081416 Columbo SUN in English 5 Dec 81 p 1

[Text] Sri Lanka Freedom Party (M) leader Maithripala Senanayake said yesterday they were ready for peace and unity.

In an apparent response to the announced moves by the SLFP (S) leader Sirimavo Bandaranaike to issue a "join hands" call to the breakway faction, Mr Senanayake said "we were always ready for unity, a unity without victimising anybody."

Mr Senanayake was addressing a party meeting held at Asokarama Mawatha Ihalabomiriya in Kaduwela.

He said, his name was "Maithripala" and he never harboured any illwill even for those who had attended or abused him.

Mr. Senanayake said his party accepted Mrs. Bandaranaike as the leader of the party. "We accept the policy of non-violence practised and preached by our late leader S. W. R. D Bandaranaike. We should not betray the 1,900,000 voters who backed us at the last general election. We should strive to lighten the heavy burdens the UNP has put on the shoulders of the people," he said.

He charged that party unity however was prevented by certain sections within the party.

Mr. Senanayake asserted that his party was constitutional. It was an open party. What they needed was unity within it so that they could come to the assistance of the people.

Headquarters Derequisitioned

BK091253 Hong Kong AFP in English 1156 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Colombo, 9 Dec (AFP) -- The government today handed over the requisitioned headquarters building of the opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) to a dissident group of the party -- a move expected to spark political controversy.

The building housing the headquarters was requisitioned by the government on August 19 following a dispute between two factions of the SLFP, one led by its president, former Prime Minister Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, and the other by the deputy president, Maitripala Senanayake. The dispute over party matters had led to a division of the party into two groups, each claiming to be the genuine SLFP.

The premises were derequisitioned today and handed over to Senanayake which meant a recognition of his group by the government as the genuine SLFP.

The government's move was expected to raise protests from Mrs. Bandaranaike and her group. Mrs. Bandaranaike was not immediately available for comment.

Mrs. Bandaranaike's 32-year-old son, Anura, a member of Parliament, is in the group led by Senanayake opposing his mother.

Following the dispute the two groups have met separately and elected their respective office bearers. Mrs. Bandaranaike was elected president of her group while Senananyake was elected president of the other group. Anura Bandaranaike was elected deputy president of the Senanayake group.

Both groups have written to the commissioner of elections claiming that their respective group is the genuine SLFP and [passage indistinct].